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AUTHOR Tweddale, R. Bruce
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ABSTRACT

The attributes of 1973-74 graduates (such as age, sex, and attendance pattern) from Grand Valley State Colleges (GVSC) is examined. It was found that: the proportion of males versus females graduating appeared to be the same as the proportion of males and females in the total student enrollment except at William James College; less than half of the graduates were 22 years of age or younger; the average graduate completed about two-thirds of his work toward the degree at GVSC; transfer students graduated at a higher rate than students who entered as first-time freshmen; one quarter of the graduates had more than 190 credits at the time of graduation; one quarter of the graduates had one or more incomplete grades at the time of graduation; and 20 percent of the graduates had interrupted their education one or more times. (SPG)

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Profile of 1973-74 Graduates

By College

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Office of Institutional Research

R. Bruce Tweddale

June, 1975

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Highlights of Findings

1. The proportion of males vs. females graduating appears to be the same as the proportion of males and females in the total student enrollment, except for William James College.
2. Less than half of the graduates were 22 years of age or younger.
3. The average graduate completed about two thirds of his work toward the degree at Grand Valley State Colleges.
4. One fifth of the graduates took more than twelve terms to complete their degree.
5. Transfer students appear to be graduating at a higher rate than students who enter as first time freshmen.
6. One quarter of the graduates had more than 190 credits at the time of graduation.
7. One quarter of the graduates had one or more incomplete grades at the time of graduation.
8. Twenty percent of the graduates had interrupted their education one or more times.
9. About half of the graduates had cross-registered at one time or another.
10. One eighth of the graduates had transferred from one GVSC college to another.
11. There were very few instances where differences between GVSC colleges showed up on the attributes examined.

Background

Grand Valley has historically had very little information on the nature of its graduates. This is not surprising when one considers that one of the most difficult tasks that can be undertaken is to try to maintain contact with a large group of people in today's mobile society.

One thing that can be done, however, is to look at a group of graduates from the records we currently have to see what the attributes of the graduates were when they graduated. Although this kind of a procedure does not deal with "quality", "satisfaction", or "success", it does help to give us a picture of the nature of our graduates with respect to age, sex, number of terms in attendance, admission status, total credits earned, etc.

To be meaningful, some of the attributes of the graduates must be compared with the same attributes of the total population of each college to see if differences exist. For example, do females graduate at a higher rate than males? This can be examined by comparing the percentage of females graduating with the percentage of females in the total enrollment.

Unfortunately, we do not have data on the attributes we will be looking at, by college, prior to Fall, 1974. Since we are looking at 1973-74 graduates, it would be advantageous to have this information for total enrollment by college for 1972-73 and 1973-74. Since we don't have this information, our comparison will be to total enrollment by college for Spring, 1975. Although we must recognize that this is less than ideal, the shifts in these attributes over time is very slow and we can still get a reasonable comparison by using Spring, 1975 data.

Lists of graduates for the 1973-74 year were obtained from the Records Office. An attempt was made to examine every record for the graduates of Thomas Jefferson College and William James College, and every fifth record for College of Arts and Sciences graduates. The total number of records examined was 144; 76 from the College of Arts and Sciences, 31 from Thomas Jefferson College, and 36 from William James College.

Sex of Graduates

Graduates 1973-74

	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	46	60.5	14	45.2	28	75.7	88	61.1
Female	30	39.5	17	54.8	9	24.3	56	38.9
Total	76	100.0	31	100.0	37	100.0	144	100.0

Comparison of Graduates to Spring, 1975 Enrollment

	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	Grads., Sp. 75		Grads., Sp. 75		Grads., Sp. 75		Grads., Sp. 75	
Male	60.5%	34.7%	45.2%	47.7%	75.7%	55.4%	61.1%	53.9%
Female	39.5%	45.3%	54.8%	52.3%	24.3%	44.6%	38.9%	46.1%
Number	76	3,907	31	576	37	684	144	5,167

Comments:

1. Although there are differences in percentages between graduates and the total population in Spring, 1975, the differences are not significant at the 95% confidence level in the College of Arts and Sciences, Thomas Jefferson College and Total. Thus, these groups appear to be graduating males and females in about the same proportion as are in their general populations.
2. William James College does show a significantly higher proportion of male graduates than is in their Spring, 1975 population. This could mean that either some factor is operating to cause a higher proportion of males to graduate, or that the Spring, 1975 population is not representative of William James male-female rates over the past several years. Since we do not have male-female rates data by college prior to Fall, 1974, this question will have to remain unanswered at this time.

Age of Graduates

	Age at Graduation							
	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 22	9	11.8	3	9.7	3	8.3	15	10.5
22	30	39.5	10	32.2	9	25.0	49	34.2
23-24	17	22.4	7	22.5	12	33.3	36	25.2
25-29	16	21.1	6	19.4	10	27.8	32	22.4
30-34	2	2.6	2	6.5	1	2.8	5	3.5
35-39	2	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.4
40-49	0	0.0	3	9.7	1	2.8	4	2.8
50 +	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	76	100.0	31	100.0	36	100.0	143	100.0

Comments:

1. Less than half (44.7%) of the graduates were 22 years of age or younger. Thus, over half of the graduates did not follow the traditional pattern of graduating from high school at 18, attending college for the next four years, and graduating at age 22.
2. There is no significant difference in the age pattern of graduates between colleges.

Number of Terms Graduates Attended GVSC

	Number of Terms In Attendance							
	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
3	3	3.9	2	6.5	0	0.0	5	3.5
4-6	15	19.7	8	25.8	7	18.9	30	20.8
7-9	17	22.4	7	22.6	14	37.8	38	26.4
10-12	24	31.6	9	29.0	7	18.9	40	27.8
13 +	17	22.4	5	16.1	9	24.4	31	21.5
Total	76	100.0	31	100.0	37	100.0	144	100.0
Average	9.9		8.8		9.5		9.6	

Comments:

1. The average graduate has completed a little more than two thirds of his work at GVSC.
2. About one quarter of the graduates had spent six terms or less at GVSC.
3. Approximately one fifth of the graduates were in attendance thirteen terms or more. The largest number of terms by any graduate was eighteen.
4. There is no significant difference in the pattern between colleges.

Admission Status

Classification of Graduates When They Entered GVSC

	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
FTIAC's	33	43.4	8	25.8	13	35.1	54	37.5
Transfers	43	56.6	23	74.2	24	64.9	90	62.5
Total	76	100.0	31	100.0	37	100.0	144	100.0

Comparison of Graduates to Spring, 1975 Enrollment

	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	Grads., Sp. 75	Grads., Sp. 75	Grads., Sp. 75	Grads., Sp. 75	Grads., Sp. 75	Grads., Sp. 75	Grads., Sp. 75	Grads., Sp. 75
FTIAC's	43.4%	54.4%	25.8%	47.7%	35.1%	49.4%	37.5%	53.0%
Transfers	56.6%	45.6%	74.2%	52.3%	64.9%	50.6%	62.5%	47.0%
Number	76	3,907	31	576	37	684	144	5,167

Comments:

1. The differences between percentage of FTIAC's and transfers in the graduating group and the total Spring, 1975 population is not significant at the 95% confidence level for William James College.
2. In the College of Arts and Sciences, Thomas Jefferson College and Total, the differences are significant. A higher proportion of transfer students are graduating than would be indicated by the proportion of transfer students in the general population. It appears that transfer students have a better graduation rate than those who enter as first time freshmen in any college.

Total Credits and Credits Earned at GVSC at Time of Graduation

Credits Earned																
CAS				TJC				WJC				TOTAL				
Total		at GVSC		Total		at GVSC		Total		at GVSC		Total		at GVSC		
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
0-49		2	2.6			1	3.2			0	0.0			3	2.1	
50-99		22	28.9			7	22.6			10	27.0			39	27.1	
100-149		17	22.4			10	32.3			12	32.4			39	27.1	
150-179		4	5.3			5	16.1			2	5.4			11	7.6	
180-189	61	80.4	24	31.7	20	64.5	6	19.4	28	75.7	13	35.2	109	75.6	43	29.8
190-199	9	11.8	2	2.6	7	22.6	1	3.2	8	21.6	0	0.0	24	16.7	3	2.1
200-219	3	3.9	2	2.6	3	9.7	0	0.0	1	2.7	0	0.0	7	4.9	2	1.4
220 +	3	3.9	3	3.9	1	3.2	1	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.8	4	2.8
Total	76	100.0	76	100.0	31	100.0	31	100.0	37	100.0	37	100.0	144	100.0	144	100.0

Comments:

1. One quarter of the graduates had a total of more than 190 credits at the time of graduation.
2. 29.2% of the graduates had earned less than 100 credits toward graduation at GVSC.
3. 36.1% of the graduates had earned at least 180 credits at GVSC.
4. There are no significant differences between colleges at the 95% confidence level on either total credits or credits earned at GVSC.

Incomplete Grades at Time of Graduation

Incomplete Grades on Record

Credits % Incomplete	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	65	85.6	17	54.8	25	67.6	107	74.2
1-5	8	10.5	11	35.5	7	18.9	26	18.1
6-10	2	2.6	1	3.2	3	8.1	6	4.2
11-15	1	1.3	0	0.0	2	5.4	3	2.1
16-20	0	0.0	2	6.5	0	0.0	2	1.4
Total	76	100.0	31	100.0	37	100.0	144	100.0

Comments:

1. One quarter of the students graduated with one or more credits of incomplete on their record.
2. The College of Arts and Sciences had a significantly smaller proportion of students graduating with incompletes than did Thomas Jefferson College and William James College. The difference between the number of students graduating with incompletes in Thomas Jefferson and William James College is not significant at the 95% confidence level.

Discontinuous Attendance

The following table shows the number of students who interrupted their attendance by one term or more, excluding summer term.

Frequency of Interruption

# of Interruptions	CAS		TJC		WJC		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	63	82.9	24	74.4	28	75.7	115	79.8
1	8	10.5	6	19.4	8	21.6	22	15.3
2	1	1.3	1	3.2	1	2.7	3	2.1
3 +	4	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.8
Total	76	100.0	31	100.0	37	100.0	144	100.0

Comments:

1. 20% of the graduates interrupted their education one or more times.
2. At the 95% confidence level, no differences between colleges in the proportion of students who interrupted are significant.

Internal Transfers

12.5% of the graduates had done internal transfers from one GVSC college to another as follows:

CAS to TJC - 4 students
CAS to WJC - 11 students
TJC to WJC - 1 student
WJC to CAS - 2 students

Cross Registration

Seventy one, or 49.3% of the graduates, had cross registered into another college at one time or another for a total of 1,653 credits. Of the 1,653, 1,163 were taken from the College of Arts and Sciences, 285 from Thomas Jefferson College, 184 from William James College, and 21 from College IV.